

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GUATEM 04191 060239Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----063967 060242Z /72-64

O 060217Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6626  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL BELIZE NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T GUATEMALA 4191

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: GT, BH, UK, PBOR  
SUBJECT: GUATEMALA-BELIZE DISPUTE

REF: STATE 155202; GUATEMALA'S 4158

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER OBIOLS ARRIVED UNANNOUNCED AT MY HOUSE AT 6:15PM TONIGHT TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTATION TO ME ON BELIZE. HE SAID THAT AT THE SAME TIME THAT I HAD BEEN ASKING PRUDENCE OF THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE BELIZE SITUATION AND HE ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ASSURING ME THAT HIS GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO ACT WITH THE GREATEST PRUDENCE AND AVOID ANY KIND OF PROVOCATION, THEY HAD NOW LEARNED THAT THE BRITISH WERE NOT ACTING IN THE SAME SPIRIT. THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED TODAY THAT A BRITISH FRIGATE HAD APPEARED OFF THE BELIZE COAST. PRESIDENT LAUGERUD CONSIDERED THIS AN ACT OF PROVOCATION AND AN ACT OF INTIMIDATION ON THE EVE OF THE INITIATION OF THE TALKS IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID HE WAS CALLING THIS TO OUR ATTENTION, POINTING OUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS COMPLYING WITH ITS WORD AND HAD NOT MOVED A SINGLE SOLDIER. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BRITISH, DESPITE WHAT WE HAD TOLD HIS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 GUATEM 04191 060239Z

GOVERNMENT, HAD COMMITTED THIS ACT OF CLEAR PROVOCATION.

2. I TOLD OBIOLS I WOULD REPORT WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME TO WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY. I SAID I HOPED THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR THE VERY IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS BEGINNING TOMORROW WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED. OBIOLS REPLIED THAT THIS WAS ALSO THEIR HOPE BUT THEY MUST SEE WHETHER THE BRITISH HAVE AN UNDER-

STANDING OF THE GUATEMALAN POSITION AND AVOID ANY ACTS OF PROVOCATION OR INTIMIDATION.

3. I ASKED OBIOLS IF I COULD ASSUME FROM WHAT HE HAD SAID THAT THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTEND TO TAKE ANY ACTIONS ON ITS PART. OBIOLS SAID THAT DEPENDED ON THE BRITISH AND WHETHER THEY CONTINUED TO TAKE PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS. SHOULD THEY CONTINUE TO DO SO, HE SAID, HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE COMPELLED TO MAINTAIN ITS PREPARATIONS. HE ADDED, IN CONCLUSION, THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD WANTED US TO KNOW THAT HE HAD KEPT HIS WORD.

4. THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS ARE REQUESTED.  
BOSTER

(SIGCEN NOTE: MCN'S FOR INFO ADDEES WILL BE FORWARDED LATER.

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DISPUTES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NAVAL SHIPS, THREATS, NEGOTIATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 06-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977GUATEM04191  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770238-1255  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** GUATEMALA  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770789/aaaaczbg.tel  
**Line Count:** 77  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 04bfb370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 155202, 77 GUATEMALA 4158  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1955444  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GUATEMALA-BELIZE DISPUTE  
**TAGS:** PBOR, MPOL, PDEV, GT, BH, UK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/04bfb370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009